

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Election/Restrictions*

1. Claims 1, 3-8, 11-15 and 20 are allowable. The restriction requirement directed to the species shown in Figs. 1, 4, 6, 7 and 8, as set forth in the Office action mailed on 9/21/2006, has been reconsidered in view of the allowability of claims to the elected invention pursuant to MPEP § 821.04(a). **The restriction requirement is hereby withdrawn as to any claim that requires all the limitations of an allowable claim.**

However, it is noted that claims 16 and 18-19, directed to the non-elected species, were not rejoined because these claims included limitations that were not compatible with the limitations set forth in independent claim 1. Claim 17 also had limitations that were not compatible with the limitations set forth in independent claim 1. Thus, claims 16-19 were canceled by the attached examiner's amendment.

In view of the above noted withdrawal of the restriction requirement, applicant is advised that if any claim presented in a continuation or divisional application is anticipated by, or includes all the limitations of, a claim that is allowable in the present application, such claim may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application.

Once a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. See *In re Ziegler*, 443 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. M. Costantino (Reg. No. 33,565) on 8/14/2008.

**IN THE CLAIMS OF THE AMENDMENT DATED 5/1/2008:**

In claim 1, line 25 before "transmission", -- plurality of -- has been inserted.

In claim 1, line 25 after "transmission", "gear" has been replaced with -- gears --.

In claim 1, line 25 before "the", "connects" has been replaced with -- connect --.

In claim 1, line 26 before "rotation", "transmits" has been replaced with -- transmit --.

Claims 16-19 have been canceled.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claim 1 of the amendment dated 5/1/2008, as modified by the attached examiner's amendment, is patentable over the prior art of record because the teachings of the references taken as a whole do not show or render obvious the combination set forth, including a plurality of transmission gears that connect lock gears with each other and transmit rotation therebetween.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THOMAS A. MORRISON whose telephone number is (571)272-7221. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Mackey can be reached on (571) 272-6916. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Patrick H. Mackey/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art  
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8/14/2008